

Lebanon Hills Regional Park



Overlook - Sealing Area

Connector Trail

Lebanon Hills Regional Park Master Plan

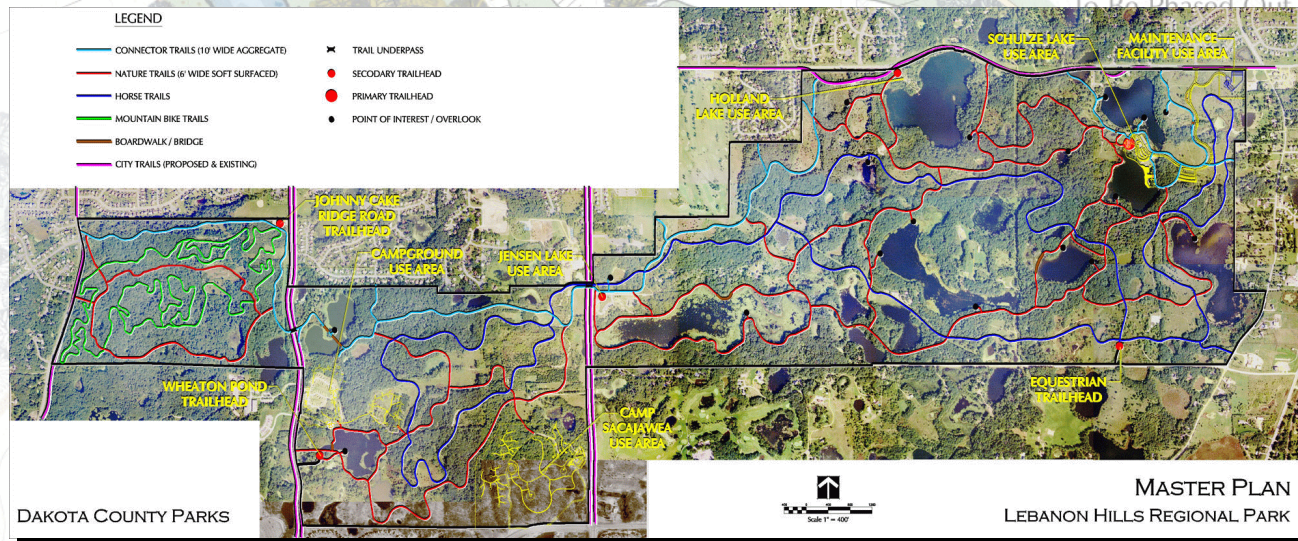
"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man nor for us to reap from it the aesthetic harvest it is capable, under science, of contributing to culture. That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics."

Aldo Leopold, from the foreword to "A Sand County Almanac"

Prepared For:

Dakota County Parks

March 2001
(100 spaces)



Prepared By:
Brauer & Associates, Ltd.

Acknowledgments

Overview

In May of 2000, Dakota County Board of Commissioners retained Brauer & Associates, Ltd. to work with a Stakeholders Task Force and Technical Planning Team to complete a comprehensive master plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park. This document represents the results of the planning process, which was completed in March 2001.

Acknowledgments

The consultant team would like to applaud Dakota County for undertaking an open and constructive public participation process for the project. This approach allowed for many perspectives to be considered on important planning issues that will affect the park's use and protection for many years to come. Through this process, it is believed that a responsible balance between human use of the park and its ecological protection was achieved.

The consultant team would also like to thank the many individuals who participated as members of the Stakeholders Task Force as listed on the next page. Their individual and collective insights were instrumental in drawing conclusions that are reasonable and responsible. Their individual tenacity on core values coupled with flexibility and understanding of varying perspectives on development concerns allowed for a master plan to emerge that met recreational needs without compromising the unique natural values of the park that are held in high regard. The Task Force's enthusiasm for the project and belief that the park adds much value to the lives of people living in the region kept the consultant team motivated to the very end.

The consultant team also extends a heartfelt thank you to the Technical Planning Team and PARAC as listed on the next page. The openness with which they approached this project paved the way for an open public process that considered all opinions to be of equal merit and worthy of due consideration. The Technical Team's and PARAC's understanding of the larger regional context and pressing park needs and how Lebanon Hills fit into this bigger picture was also of high value as final conclusions were drawn. Of equal importance was their patience in letting the process run its course until a consensus emerged that reflected a reasonable solution to a complex undertaking.

Finally, the consultant team extends a thank you to the many people throughout the region who took the time to attend meetings, write letters, send emails, make phone calls, and even bring us into their homes so that we could understand the issues first hand and find solutions that seemed reasonable and workable. It is our belief that maintaining an open dialogue with members of the Task Force and broader community was the only possible way that the planning process could be successful in meeting project objectives.

Sincerely,

Jeff Schoenbauer

Stakeholder Task Force

The Task Force consisted of individuals representing a cross-section of interests. The following provides the name of Task Force members along with the interest they represented.

Laura Hedlund – Task Force Chair and PARAC	Paul Olson – City of Eagan
Linda Aderhold – Mixed Use	Randy Oswald – City of Farmington
Mark Borquardt – City of Inver Grove Heights	Greg Pasillas – Equestrian
Mark Cleveland – MNDNR Parks and Recreation	Dan Schultz – City of Rosemount
Pat Cummins – Hiking	Edward Stalling – Canoeing
Raleigh Foss – In-holding Residents	Tracey Stewart – City of Burnsville
John Gamlin – Mixed Use	Chad Storley – Camp Butwin
Dale Gundberg – Mountain Biking	Carol Thomas – Diamond T Ranch
Mary Hapka – City of Mendota Heights	Kimberly Thomas – Minnesota Zoo
James Jenkins – Friends of Lebanon Hills	Carolyn Thurston – Mixed Use
Randy Johnson – City of Apple Valley	Elizabeth Undis – Mixed Use
Paul Mandell – Camping	Tim Wegner – Skiing
Nathan Nelson – School of Environmental Studies	

Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Joseph Harris	Patrice Bataglia	Michael Turner	Willis Branning
Donald Maher	Nancy Schouweiler	Paul Krause	

Dakota County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PARAC)

Liz Witt, Chair	Laura Hedlund	David Hohle	Dennis O'Melia
Clay Van De Bogart	Charles VanGuilder	Thomas White	

Technical Planning Team

Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks Department	Beth Landahl, Dakota County Parks Department
Bruce Blair, Dakota County Parks Department	Arden Page, Dakota County Parks Department
Lynn Thompson, Dakota County Parks Department	Kurt Chatfield, Dakota County Office of Planning
Johnny Forrest, Dakota County Parks Department	Jade Templin, Dakota County Office of Planning
Craig Johnson, Dakota County Parks Department	Ken Harrington, Dakota County Facilities Management

Consultant Team

Brauer & Associates, Ltd.

10417 Excelsior Boulevard, Suite 1
Hopkins, MN 55343
(952) 238-0831

Jeff Schoenbauer, Vice President, RLA, Principle-In-Charge
George Watson, President, RLA
Tim Wold, LA
Candace Amberg, RLA
Jason Amberg, RLA

Applied Ecological Services, Inc.

4018 W. 65th Street, Suite 16
Edina, MN 55435
(953) 929-6722

Steve Apfelbaum, Senior Ecologist, Principal
Doug Eppich, PE
Doug Mensing, Ecologist

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